

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 29

July 26, 2013

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting	8/1
WHA PAC Golf Tournament Sheridan	9/17
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Sheridan	9/18-9/19

## Other Events:

2nd Annual Quality Conference Casper	8/21-8/22
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## Payment System Changes Discussed

A diverse and engaged crowd of nearly 150 people attended a program in Casper last week to evaluate and discuss the needed changes to the health care payment system.

This event was presented and promoted by a cooperative effort involving the Wyoming Business Coalition on Health, the Wyoming Medical Center, the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation and the Wyoming Hospital Association.

As healthcare reform efforts prepare for additional stages of implementation nationwide, this group endeavored to sponsor an opportunity for open dialogue and discussion regarding how these reforms are likely to impact and shape the landscape of Wyoming health care delivery.

These impacts are widely viewed at multiple levels, recognizing broad-based change that will necessitate the attention and forward thinking of patients, employers, and providers of healthcare services.

As the keynote speaker for the event, David Nash, M.D. delivered a very engaging presentation highlighting multiple aspects of our current health care system that are not providing the proper incentives and outcomes-

based focus that is inherently necessary for effecting successful, long-term, sustainable change.

Dr. Nash provided an extensive analysis regarding opportunities for increasing the value gained from our health care services, seeking better outcomes and more consistent care while being mindful of controlling costs. At the core of the discussion, this is clearly the key challenge – enhanced quality, while decreasing cost.

A transformative shift in the components of incentives, financial as well as operational to be built into such a system change is necessary for all providers and patients to effectively have a legitimate and tangible stake in assuring success over time.

Nationwide, a growing recognition that the current rate of expenditure, from all payor sources, public and private alike to be financing care based on volume of services delivered, i.e. “per procedure” is unsustainable. Advancements in technology and provider capabilities, the ever-growing ability to diagnose and treat – the expectations of patients have grown in tandem.

Nash contends that a genuine focus on the health of the nation, as individuals and a collected population in

providing incentives based upon prevention, appropriately termed “Population Health” will be necessary to affect real change.

Following Dr. Nash’s presentation, a panel discussion was engaged and moderated by Dr. Brent Sherard, Medical Director of the Wyoming Integrated Care Network. The panel was represented by an outstanding collection of Wyoming-based healthcare leadership, including Vickie Diamond, CEO of the Wyoming Medical Center and Ryan Smith, CEO of Memorial Hospital of Converse County.

This group continued with the specific themes and topics regarding reform measures and provided personal points of reference from experience in Wyoming, effectively weighing the challenges at hand.

All spoke to the pressures on the current system, with direct reference to the insurance industry, employers that continue to maintain the commitment in providing employer-based coverage, and the strategic difficulty for hospitals and physicians to effectively plan for their organizational future in light of the nature of change taking place nationwide and in Wyoming.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight*



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## Sweetwater Hospital, Castle Rock Announce Partnership

A recently announced partnership between Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County and Castle Rock Hospital District will give Castle Rock patients access to specialists from MHSC.

According to MHSC CEO Gerard Klein, he discussed the idea of a partnership with former Castle Rock CEO John Ferry. After Ferry retired, the talks stalled. After Ferry returned to Castle Rock Klein said the discussion resumed.

Ferry said MHSC spe-

cialists will provide care for Castle Rock patients on certain days so Green River residents don't have to drive as often to Rock Springs.

MHSC has started to get more medical care specialists lately and healthcare providers from both organizations would be able to bounce ideas off each other.

Both of the Memorial Hospital and Castle Rock boards are on the same page, Ferry said. Klein said the boards would be meeting to finalize specifics of the part-

nership.

Dr. David Dansie, Castle Rock's medical director, said the Memorial Hospital specialists should be in the building by July. Dansie said the arrangement will make care more convenient for Green River patients.

Klein said he was excited about the partnership and said it was a long time coming.

"Instead of sort of working together, let's get together, and do really great things," Klein said.

## HTS Announces Montana/Wyoming IT Webinars

In serving as the Regional Extension Center for Montana and Wyoming – Health Technology Services (HTS) has announced upcoming webinars available for hospitals in both states to participate.

On Wednesday, August 21 a detailed presentation on "Stage-2 Meaningful Use Requirements" will be offered.

In addition, the recently updated requirements for HIPAA Privacy and Security will be presented on September 18, at 1:00pm.

Health Technology Ser-

VICES was established in 2010 as a division of Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation.

The mission of HTS is to promote safer, more effective, higher quality health care to patients, practitioners and providers through education, training, consultation and communication.

The staff at HTS is committed to serve as an effective and trusted rural health industry advisor, maintaining leading edge expertise that utilizes technology and proven clinical quality best practices to improve health

outcomes.

A number of CAHs in Wyoming have indeed utilized the services of HTS – primarily in augmenting vendor offerings by providing HIT support services in focusing on meeting the initial requirements of Stage-1 Meaningful Use. The August 21 webinar will provide information that will be critical to successfully meeting the Stage-2 requirements currently at hand.

Information can be found at Patricia Kosednar at (406) 461-4410 or accessed via [www.htsrec.com](http://www.htsrec.com)

## WHA Annual Meeting & Convention

The Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting & Convention will be held September 18-19, 2013 at the Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming.

This year's WHA PAC Golf Tournament is planned for September 17 at the

Powder Horn Golf Club in Sheridan.

Plans are well underway for this year's meeting. Brochures will be mailed soon or go to our website at [www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com) to view the brochure or to register.

Room reservations can be made at the Sheridan Holiday Inn by calling 307.

672.8931 or 800.465.4329. Please use group code WHA to receive the special Convention rate.